



Mosaico

Volume 3 Issue 1

June 1, 2011

The American Citizen Newsletter

National Missing Children's Day

International Child Abduction Round Table

Welcome to the quarterly newsletter dedicated to U.S. citizens living in Brazil. Find news, updates from your local U.S. Embassy or Consulate, and more ...

To commemorate May 25th as National Missing Children's Day, the U.S. Consulate in Rio de Janeiro hosted a roundtable discussion about the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction. Consul General Marie Damour, Consul Karen Gustafson de Andrade, Brazilian judges, and Brazilian lawyers addressed the 25 person audience of diplomats from missions around the world. Speakers discussed how the Hague Convention expedites the return of abducted and unlawfully retained children to their

country of habitual residence for custody determination. The U.S. and

"I am convinced that when the history of international law comes to be written centuries hence, it will be divided into two periods: the first being from the earliest times to the end of the nineteenth century, and the second beginning with the Hague Conference."

-Ludwig Quidde
Nobel Peace Prize
Recipient, 1927

Brazil are party to the Convention. Participants shared individual experiences and agreed to future events with legal officials from around Brazil to raise



Officials from Brazil, the U.S., and diplomats from nations worldwide work to improve the implementation of the Hague convention.

consciousness about the issue and the Convention. The audience took in Secretary Clinton's message on National Missing

Children's Day (read on p3 or seen [here](#)).

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Hague Cases Continue

There are still many pending Hague cases in Brazil and worldwide. For additional information on child abduction, please see the [Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of Parental Child Abduction](#) or the [U.S. Department of State website](#). Before traveling to or from

Brazil, parents of Brazilian children or dual nationals should carefully review [Brazil's strict exit requirements](#) for leaving the country, as no child may depart the country without the notarized express consent of both parents or a Brazilian court order authorizing the child's

departure. For general travel information please visit the [Brazil page](#) of [www.travel.state.gov](#).

To avoid any complications when traveling with a minor, see page 6.

Marital problems? If you're contemplating separation, finalize child custody arrangements before leaving the country. Anyone taking children without a custody agreement could be subject to legal repercussions. In addition, under the Hague Convention, custody will eventually be decided in the country where the child normally resides (prior to an abduction or unlawful retention). If you are concerned about or wish to report an abduction, please see the child abduction section of the [travel.state.gov](#) website. If you have an emergency call the numbers on page 9 to reach your local ACS unit or emergency hotline in the U.S.



Consul General's Corner

We make a living by what we do, but we make a life by what we give. - Winston Churchill

There is no better way to serve your country than by service to those in need. Whether it is getting involved in your community in Brazil or back in the United States, volunteer work is a deeply rewarding endeavor. This year marks the Peace Corps' 50th anniversary and since April is National Volunteer's Month, we have dedicated much of this issue to stories about those who have served abroad.

Another important and easy way to give back to the American community is to serve as a Warden. Though it involves a minimal amount of work, Wardens are essential in times of emergency. They distribute information to Americans living in their community and can be a crucial way to locate the missing, helping to relieve the anxiety of family members back home. If you would like more information, or would consider serving as a Warden, please contact your local Embassy or Consulate (contact listed on p. 9). Regardless, I would encourage you to enhance your own life experiences through volunteerism.

The second focus of this quarter's newsletter is National Missing Children Month. The Department of State has no higher priority than the welfare of U.S. citizens overseas. This is particularly true for our smallest citizens, who cannot speak for themselves. Assisting the victims of international parental

child abduction has long been an important activity of the Bureau of Consular Affairs. The United States and Brazil are both party to the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction. The Hague Convention is a civil legal mechanism available to parents seeking the return of, or access to, their child. Its focus is the prompt return of children to their homes where custody will be determined.

In order to engage on Hague Convention issues, Ambassador Susan Jacobs, the Special Advisor to the Office of Children's Issues, visited Brazil in May to meet with officials on current abduction cases and discuss how our two nations can cooperate to improve implementation of the Hague among all member states. The U.S. Consulate in Rio de Janeiro also hosted a roundtable with Brazilian judges, lawyers, and members of the Diplomatic Consular Corps here in Rio de Janeiro to discuss pressing Hague abduction issues.

Finally, we hope that you enjoy this newsletter and find it useful. If you have suggestions for topics you would like to see included in future editions, please do not hesitate to contact us through your nearest Consulate or the Embassy. As always, our contact information can be found on the Embassy website: brazil.usembassy.gov/

Marie Damour
Consul General
U.S. Embassy Brasilia

"The Department of State has no higher priority than the welfare of U.S. citizens overseas."

ENROLL WITH THE EMBASSY OR A CONSULATE

You should enroll with the U.S. Embassy or Consulate that has jurisdiction over the state you reside in or are visiting and update your information every **five** years or when departing Brazil. Please see the list below of which states are covered by each post to determine with where you should sign up for the the Smart Travellers Enrollment Program (STEP). Please see page 8 for a list of consular agents in other Brazilian cities. You may enroll online at; <http://travelregistration.state.gov/ibrs>

U.S. Embassy Brasilia covers: Acre, Amapá, Amazonas, Distrito Federal, Goiás, Mato Grosso, Pará, Rondônia, and Roraima.

U.S. Consulate Rio de Janeiro covers: Bahia, Espírito Santo, Minas Gerais, and Rio de Janeiro.

U.S. Consulate São Paulo covers: Mato Grosso do Sul, Paraná, São Paulo, Rio Grande do Sul, and Santa Catarina.

U.S. Consulate Recife covers: Alagoas, Ceará, Fernando de Noronha, Maranhão, Paraíba, Pernambuco, Piauí, Sergipe, and Rio Grande do Norte.

Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton Remarks for National Missing Children's Day

Last year, parents abducted nearly 2,000 children to or from the United States. That's 40 children taken from their homes and from their loved ones each week. Abductions traumatize children, their parents, friends, and family. International Parental Child Abduction is a painful scourge for so many, and it is something that deeply concerns me.

At the State Department, we are committed to preventing child abduction and to helping the children and families caught up in these very complex situations. Our dedicated staff in the Office of Children's Issues works everyday to support families and children at risk. We help parents access the tools available to prevent international abductions, such as our Passport Issuance Alert Program.

When an abduction does occur however, we work with parents to identify the appropriate response and find the resources that can help bring their children home. In 2010, for example, we helped more than 575 children return to their homes and families, both in the United States and in countries around the world.

This work extends beyond individual families. So, we are encouraging foreign governments to join us as parties to The Hague Convention on Child Abduction. Today we are treaty partners with 68 countries, and we want that number to grow. This convention is a necessary tool for resolving these difficult cases and giving more children the opportunity to come home.

On this National Missing Children's Day, let's continue to stand up, speak out, and do our part to keep our most vulnerable citizens safe. And let's help children around the world come home.



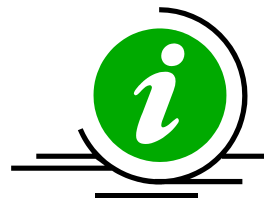
TRAVELING WITH A MINOR SOON?



Brazilian minors age 17 years and under, including dual Brazilian / U.S. citizens, are subject to strict exit requirements. Brazilian minors departing Brazil, if not accompanied by both parents, must prove that both parents authorized the departure. If accompanied by only one parent, the minor must have a notarized letter from the other parent indicating permission to depart the country, a court order proving that the accompanying parent has sole custody, or a Brazilian court order authorizing the child's departure. If accompanied by neither parent, the minor must have a notarized letter from the parents authorizing departure or a Brazilian court order authorizing the same. **There are no exceptions.** Even if both parents plan to travel with the child, it is best for each parent to get the letter authorized by the other. Unforeseen emergencies and unexpected circumstances can arise so it is best to be prepared.

If signed in Brazil, the travel authorization must be authenticated by a Brazilian notary. If prepared in the U.S., it should be notarized at the Brazilian Embassy or Consulate (a free service). Minors age 17 years and under who are not Brazilian nationals are not technically subject to the same strict travel requirements as Brazilian minors. However, there have been cases where the travel of non-Brazilian minors has been delayed or not authorized when accompanied by only one parent or a third party. To avoid potential difficulties, parents of non-Brazilian minors may want to follow the same procedures above if their children will be traveling to Brazil. **Both parents should obtain these documents before leaving the U.S. or Brazil.**

For a Brazilian travel authorization, click [here](#) if you're in Brazil and [here](#) if in the U.S.



Congrats as the Peace Corps Turns 50

50 Years of Peace and Friendship

From: Peace Corps Times



The Peace Corps was officially established by President John F. Kennedy's executive order on March 1, 1961. Just five months later, a group of Americans stepped off a plane in Accra singing Ghana's national anthem in Twi.

The pioneering spirit of that first group of Volunteers endures today.

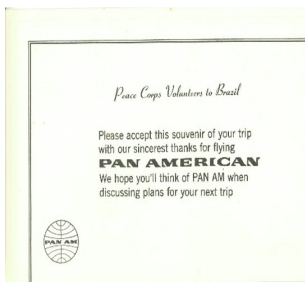
Although much has changed since 1961, the Peace Corps' mission remains the same. The agency was established to promote world peace and friendship through three simple, yet monumental, goals: 1. To help the people of interested countries in meeting their need for trained men and women; 2. To help promote a better understanding of Americans on the part of the people served; and 3. To help promote a better understanding of other people on the part of Americans.

Then-Senator Kennedy inspired

Peace Corps' mission during a 2 a.m. impromptu campaign stop at the University of Michigan on October 14, 1960. Today, Volunteers face many of the same challenges

and opportunities President Kennedy and first Director Sargent Shriver envisioned. Poverty, disease, famine, food security, and illiteracy are issues that continue to challenge the countries we serve. Their work has had a direct impact on local communities in 139 host countries.

We can all take pride in being part of a legacy of service that continually adapts and responds to the challenges of our respective eras. A belief in service isn't limited to our Volunteers, but includes our dedicated staff members and friends around the world. Together we carry forward the torch of President Kennedy's dream, realized every day through the dedication and efforts of our Volunteers.



A Peace Corps Tale

By: Martha Viegas

When I arrived in Natal in 1974 for language training, I had no idea what awaited. My mother had tried to gently steer me away from Brazil, the "sleeping giant" with its dictators and unstable economy, but the call of Peace Corps made more sense at the time. On the bus ride from Natal's airport to a downtown hotel, I was shocked to see soldiers armed with machine guns every 100 yards or so. Had Mom been right? Later, I learned that these men were guarding a military post. Police were not everywhere, or were they? Censorship was strong and sending packages to the U.S. was traumatic. Bank lines were miles and miles long, but people were kind, good-natured and helpful.

My assignment was in Recife. I was to teach English to Pernambuco State employees who aspired to do graduate work in English speaking countries. I believe that my greatest challenge was rounding up enough students to have classes. It seemed that most people important enough to merit this perk were unfortunately too busy to attend. Some students, however, made great strides.

One advantage to working in Recife was that the Peace Corps Headquarters was located close by in



Derby. I could walk from my apartment on Conde de Boa Vista to the office in minutes. There I met many interesting people such as American and Brazilian administrators as well as volunteers of all ages from all over the U.S.

Upon my arrival, Brazilians warned that "Brasil é um veneno" (Brazil is addictive) and that it would be hard to leave. My sister warned that my boyfriend, whom I considered a 5-month "fling", would be hard to leave. Today, happily married to Fernando for 35 years, completely addicted to Recife's natural beauty and culture, I

accept that these two warnings were valid. As to my mom's reluctance? The "sleeping giant" awoke. The economy is strong and I am still teaching English today at the American School of Recife. I am still very happy in my role as an ambassador of good will. Peace be with you!

Then and Now: Brazil through the Eyes of a Peace Corps Volunteer

Before entering Peace Corps Brazil in 1967, Kathy Ramos had never left her hometown of Cleveland, Ohio. Now, 40 years and two grown children later, she is retiring from U.S. Consulate Rio de Janeiro after a successful career globetrotting across three continents in the Foreign Service. The Peace Corps experience, which she describes as the best years of her life, completely changed the course of her future.

At 20 years old, Kathy was selected to be a Volunteer assisting the Fortaleza Peace Corps office as an Office Management Specialist. She had the unique experience of living in a boarding school run by nuns during a time when Brazil was still in many ways a developing country. She said that the warmth of the Brazilian people made it an easy transition from Cleveland, and that it was here where she discovered her love for the ocean.

When asked how Brazil has evolved over the years, Kathy suggests that Brazil has changed her much more than the country. She's noticed a greater sophistication and self-confidence. When asked if she would do Peace Corps again, she replies that she would do it in a heartbeat.



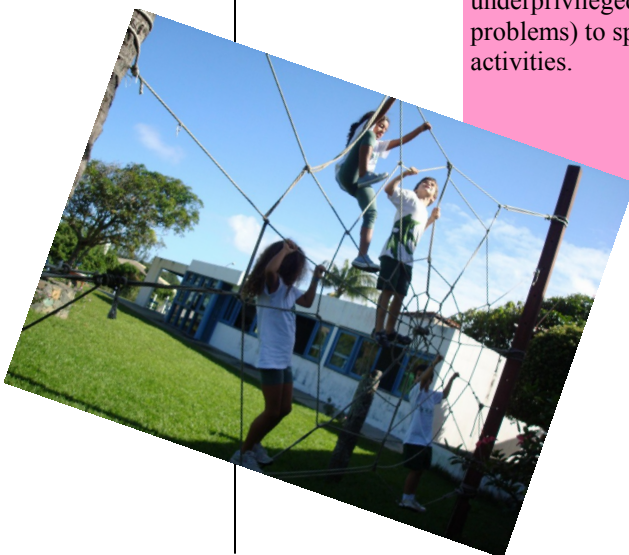
Life After the Peace Corps



Though Susan Murray was raised in the United States, she was born in Manaus, Brazil. She joined the Peace Corps to educate teachers in the interior of Rio Grande do Norte. Then in 1979, she married a Brazilian and her son was born. She opened her own preschool. In the nineties, she returned to California where she was impressed by children's museums around the Southern part of the state.

In Oct., 2000, after returning to Brazil, she opened the Children's Museum in Salvador replete with 'a bubble room,' a huge rope spider web outside, a deck under a Jambo tree, green space for running, and swings. Inside children will find a library, construction blocks, a science corner, a tornado tube, many science experiences, elephant tusks and bones, a handmade x-ray machine, a tabuleiro de baiana with all the pieces, cooperative games, tactile wall, buzzer board made with a battery, fossil rubbings, a dinosaur skeleton, visual illusions, and magnets.

Although admission is normally charged to the public, Susan regularly invites groups of underprivileged children (and children with health problems) to spend a day at the museum participating in activities.



U.S. TRIVIA

1. Which state has the most colleges and universities?
2. What are the names of President Obama's two daughters?
3. What year did Brazil win the FIFA World Cup in the U.S.?
4. In which U.S. city and state did Brazil win the FIFA World Cup?

(Answers on page 9)

Volunteering

Building a Wall in São Paulo

(São Paulo April 23)- Folks from the São Paulo international school, international church and the U.S. Consulate helped build a wall at Lar Efrata, an orphanage that houses 22 children on the outskirts of São Paulo. The wall was deemed necessary after the orphanage was broken into a few weeks earlier. Fortunately, the thief took nothing of value and no one was hurt. Located in a humble neighborhood, the wall helped to secure the orphanage from robbery or harassment. Upon completion, the orphanage would like to create a computer lab on campus and offer the orphans basic classes. The volunteer efforts will continue on future Saturdays. Americans interested in volunteering should contact PACA, Calvary International or the American Citizen Services Unit in the American Consulate in São Paulo (p.9).

UNDER CONSTRUCTION

Marines in Brasilia

Last year's Toys for Tots campaign benefited the "Casa de Meninos de Jesus." The U.S. Embassy community filled a large box with donated toys that were wrapped and delivered by American Marines. When we arrived the kids gathered in a central room. Each child received at least one toy. Another box filled with used toys was also donated to the orphanage. The kids were delighted, were very well behaved throughout the event, and were all very grateful for the presents they received.



Volunteer Day at the U.S. Consulate in São Paulo

Story and photos contributed by Public Affairs-São Paulo

(São Paulo, April 9, 2011) – On a beautiful São Paulo Saturday, solar and kid energy lit the faces of more than 65 children from Projeto Sol and the Helen Drexel charity for orphans as they poured through the Consulate gates for a day of fun, food, and friendship.

More than 40 volunteers from São Paulo's American Society and the U.S. Consulate welcomed the two charities whose children riotously used the Consulate facilities to the max. Some jumped straight into the swimming pool, others chose up sides to demonstrate their prowess on the soccer pitch and a few took to the basketball court to emulate Nené and Anderson Varejão. Principal Officer Tom Kelly helped conduct a tennis clinic for some youngsters who had never held a racket before. The only time the children slowed down – they never really stopped – was to recharge their batteries on hamburgers, hot dogs and baked goods such as paço rolha, bombocado and geléia de mocotó (marshmallows), before getting on with the action.

In the end, the American Society and Consulate volunteers absorbed as much energy from the kids as they had given. With so many worthy charities for children around the city, this day of fun, games and friendship was only the first of many we hope to repeat throughout the year.



Volunteering in Salvador

By Heather Marques

The Feira da Fraternidade is an annual fund raising activity for Catholic charities which has taken place for 29 years in Salvador. This year, for the first time ever, Americans were represented with a U.S. booth. More than 100 Americans and Brazilians volunteered their time serving hot dogs and hamburgers, chili dogs, Philly steak sandwiches, fajitas, butterfly pork loin with French fried sweet potatoes, BBQ ribs with coleslaw, shrimp gumbo, cookies, cupcakes and milkshakes. The Fair takes place over three days and in addition to stands with typical food from several countries, there are also concerts. U.S. singer and Bahia resident Doug Adair played and sang during the Fair. Eight thousand reais were raised by the American booth alone for various charities including a school, a day care center and a free health clinic.



Would you like to contribute? Have an idea for an article? Please contact: acsrio@state.gov.

NEWS AND NOTES

ASSISTING OLDER U.S. CITIZENS OVERSEAS

WARNING: The beaches of Brazil are amongst the most beautiful in the world. Their splendor and blue waters lure visitors from all over. As you and your friends enjoy the Brazil's luxurious coastlines, please be aware that drownings occur frequently. Make sure to observe posted flags and signs for strong swells and currents, never swim while under the influence of alcohol, and always be careful. Even if the water looks safe there may be strong riptides.

Older Americans are one of the fastest-growing segments of the U.S. citizen community overseas. With May being Older Americans Month, Mission Brazil wants to improve services for this population segment of Americans living in Brazil.

Older adults are often the targets of marketing scams. Over time, these scams have evolved into very well thought out and planned operations. Always be careful before giving out any sensitive information. If

you or anyone you know experiences a scam, please contact your local ACS office (p.9).

To help older Americans abroad, ACS recently created new pamphlets and information for older U.S. citizens about traveling and living abroad. All of these new resources are available at: http://www.travel.state.gov/travel/tips/tips_1232.html.

You can also contact your local U.S. Embassy or Consulate for help with any Social Security inquiries.



American Citizen Services Contact Information

Post	Email	Phone Number
•Brasilia	BrasiliaACS@state.gov	(61) 3312-7000
•Sao Paulo	ACSinfoSaoPaulo@state.gov	(55) 5186-7000
•Rio de Janeiro	ACSRio@state.gov	(21) 3823-2000
•Recife	USRecife@state.gov	(81) 3461-3050
Consular Agents		
•Belem	(91) 3259-4566	
•Fortaleza	(85) 3486-1306	
•Manaus	(92) 3611-3333	
•Porto Alegre	(51) 3226-3344	
•Salvador da Bahia	(71) 3113-2090	

U.S. State Department Emergency After Hours Phone: (888) 407-4747

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

JOB SUMMARY:

The position is for Consular Adjudicators. This is a Limited Non-Career Appointment. Initially, these Appointments are for a period of 13 months, but they are annually renewable for up to five years, based on satisfactory performance and the needs of the Foreign Service. Applicants for Brazil must be available for all posts in Brazil and must speak/read Portuguese at the 3/3 level.

A Limited Non-Career Appointment does not automatically lead to further employment in the State Department or conversion to another form of employment.

BENEFITS:

Tax Free Housing Overseas, Tax Free Educational Allowance for eligible family members, overtime compensation, Accrual of Annual and Sick Leave, Life Insurance, Federal Employees Health Benefits Plan (FEHB); Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS), the possibility of Hardship Pay where applicable, etc. Details on additional benefits, but excluding Student Loan Repayment and Language Incentive Pay programs, are found at careers.state.gov.

HOW TO APPLY: Go to www.usajobs.gov, search Foreign Service Consular Adjudicator for Brazil.



Coming in for a passport, Consular Report of Birth Abroad, notarial, or other routine service?

Unless it's an emergency, appointments are required! Make one here:

<http://brazil.usembassy.gov/service.html>
Not sure if it's an emergency? Contact your local ACS unit (see above).

Page 6 Trivia Answers!

1. California.
2. Sasha and Malia.
3. 1994.
4. Los Angeles, California

Upcoming Holidays

The U.S. Embassy in Brasilia and the U.S. Consulates in Sao Paulo, Rio and Recife will be closed on the following dates:

June 23 (Thursday)	Corpus Christi Day
June 24 (Thursday)	Saint John Day (Recife ONLY)
July 4 (Monday)	Independence Day (U.S.)
September 5 (Monday)	Labor Day
September 7 (Wednesday)	Independence Day (Brasil)
October 10 (Monday)	Columbus Day
October 12 (Wednesday)	Our Lady Aparecida
November 2 (Wednesday)	All Souls Day
November 11 (Friday)	Veterans Day
November 15 (Tuesday)	Proclamation of the Republic